every year on this account, and the loss per post card;

(b) whether there is persistent shortage of post cards in post offices and outlets specially in villages and rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a separate and specific type of post card meant for use exclusively for different Radio and TV entertainment and quiz programmes etc., to meet this shortage and to make good the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The total amount of estimated loss to the Department on post cards during 1994-95 is Rs. 94.13 crores and the loss per Postcard is Rs. 1.58.

(b) and (c) The shortages have persisted owing to rising demand and static production capacities of the Government Security Presses. The position is likely to ease with supply of postcards printed in designated private Presses.

(d) There is a proposal to introduce a separate category of postcards for TV and Radio Quiz contests by appropriate legislation.

**Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana**

1197. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a new scheme "Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana";

(b) if so, the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme has been extended in the backward and tribal districts of Gujarat State; and

(d) if so, the details ot the location where this scheme, is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objective of the scheme is to provide basic postal facilities in Gram Panchayat villages where there is no Post Office, through the agency of Gram Panchayat.

(c) When the Government adopt the scheme for all India, it will extend to the backward and tribal districts of Gujarat.

(d) The locations will be identified only after the Government have adopted the scheme.

**"Projects for Conservation of Environment and Forests in Tamil Nadu"**

1198. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects for conservation of environment and forests started in Tamil Nadu with assistance from Union Government and also from foreign institutions during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government and foreign institutions separately for each of these projects; and

(c) the progress made in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a)to (c) The details of the projects for conservation of environment and forests

started in Tamil Nadu during the last two years alongwith achievements both Financial and Physical are given in the statement:—

**Statement**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Broad objectives | Extent of funding | Status | Achievement during the two years 93-94 and 94-95 Financial | Physical |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries | To develop National Parks and Sanctuaries | 100% | Ongoing | 70.76 | 14 National Parks covered |
| 2. | Eco development around protected areas | To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Parks | 100% NR 50% R | Ongoing | 8.62 | 2 National Parks covered |
| 3. | Project Elephant | To ensure long term survival of elephants | 100% NR 50% R | Ongoing | 43.92 | Target fixed in terms of financial releases |
| 4. | Assistance to Botanic Gardens | To upgrade Botanic Gardens | 100% | Ongoing | 18.55 | 3 Botanic Gardens covered |
| 5. | Modern Forest Fires Control Methods | Controlling Forest Fires to protect and conserve forests | 100% | Ongoing | 12.72 | Targets fixed in terms of financial releases |
| 6. | Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants | Raising Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants | 100% | Ongoing | 53.30 | 710 ha. area covered |
| 7. | Seed Development Scheme | To develop infrastructure for quality seeds | 100% | Ongoing | 58.00 | Target fixed in terms of financial releases |
| 8. | Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development projects scheme | Promote Afforestation and Eco-Development | 100% | Ongoing | 714.57 | 987 ha. area covered |
| 9. | Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project scheme | Augmenting supply of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts | 50% | Ongoing | 152.72 | 5605 ha. area covered |
| 10. | Biosphere Reserve scheme | To implement the Management Action Plan for the 2 Biosphere Reserves set up in the State | 100% | Ongoing | 98.43 | 2 Biosphere Reserves covered |
| 11. | Project Tiger | To ensure viable population of tigers | 100% NR 50% R | Ongoing | 68.77 | On Tiger Reserve covered |
| 12. | Eco-development around Tiger Reserves | To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of Tiger Reserves | 100% NR 50% R | Ongoing | 4.76 | One Tiger Reserve covered |
| 13. | Panyavaran Vahini Scheme | Create environmental awareness through active participation of public | 100% | Ongoing | 1.26 | Constituted in 7 districts |
| 14. | Conservation of Mangroves | Conservation and Management of Mangroves | 100% | Ongoing | 5.90 | 2 Mangroves covered |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Externally Aided** | | | | | | |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project | Afforestation covering plains and coastal areas including tribal areas | The Project was started with the assistance of Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) in 1988-89. An expenditure of Rs. 136.89 crore has been incurred and an area of 1.30 lakhs ha. covered upto March, 1995. | | | |
| 16. | Denmark assisted Project | To set up Environmental Training Institute at Madras | The Project has been approved to set up Training Institute at a cost of 9.961 million DM | | | |
| 17. | World Bank Pollution Control Project | To prevent and alleviate environmental degradation caused by Industrial operations. | The project involves a line of credit of US $ 155.6 million and counterpart funds of US$ 108 million to be provided by Government of Inida, State Governments, Financial Institutions and Industrial units availing loan. Under the project 4 States including Tamil Nadu are covered. There is no specific allocation for each State. | | | |

NR—Non Recurring
R—Recurring

**Newsitem regarding corruption by telephone linemen**

1199. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 23rd July, 1995 entitled "The Men Behind the faulty Lines" dealing with the corruption of the telephone linemen; and

(b) what steps will be taken to stop this corruption and give relief to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNIATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wide publicity is given exhorting customers to desist from giving monetary gratification to the line staff. A full-fledged Vigilance Cell under the charge of General Manager is functioning in the MTNL, Delhi where formal complaint can be lodged by an affected subscriber. Complaint is investigated and strict disciplinary action will be taken against the Deptt. official involved.

**Electrification of South-Eastern Railway**

1200. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for electrification in Muri-Chandil and Purulia-Koteshila section in Adra Division of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of electrification of Chandil-Muri-Barkakana section of which Muri-Chandil is a part, is in progress. Purulia-Kotshila is a part of Bokaro Steel City-Muri-Hatia-Kiriburu-Barsuan section, the electrification of which is also in progress.

(c) the electrification of the above sections is likely to be completed by March, 98.